

## [Thomas Thompson]

Nettie M. Smith

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Mr. Thomas Thompson

Mt. Horeb, Wis.

Mr. Thompson, County Superintendent of rural schools in the western half of Dane County, was born in 1872 near Mt. Horeb. His father, Samuel Thompson, was an early pioneer who was a blacksmith by trade. 1 story

The fiftieth anniversary of their Norwegian Lutheran Church will be celebrated at Mt. Horeb in 1937. The present pastor Rev. Anderson, has been in service there since September 1917. 2

The village of Mt. Horeb is the only one by that name in the United States, and it is believed to be the only one in the world. It was so named in 1861 when the post office was established; a lady who was a student of religion, and owing to the physical elevation of the land in that vicinity, named the place for the biblical mount.

George Wright, a lay minister, was appointed first post master in July 1861. (during Lincoln's administration.) 3

Where the cemetery is located, in the eastern part of the village, was the business section. Later in 1882 when the rail-road was completed and the depot erected, the business district was changed to the vicinity of the depot. The eastern part of the village

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is commonly known as “the old town.” The old Military Road passed through Mt. Horeb (before it was so named) as early as 1828.

The Union church, that was erected at an early date, was torn down ten years ago. 2 It was a combination of Presbyterian and Methodist churches. The earliest settlers were mostly from England or the eastern part of the United States. A list of the postmasters will reveal by their names, the trend of settlement in the vicinity of Mt. Horeb according to nationality. Following the English settlers, came the Norwegians and the Irish, later the Germans and Swiss.

Postmasters who have served in Mt. Horeb.

George Wright — July 25, 1861.

George Barrows —Jan. 5, 1867 English or Easterners

John Mitchell—Sept. 24, 1867

Andrew Levordson—Oct. 30, 1871

Ole M. Helland—June 5, 1876

Ole C. Nuubson—Sept. 22, 1876 Norwegian

Allen O Ruste—Feb. 6, 1882

P. G. Krogh—March 2, 1883

John N. Dahlen—July 17, 1885

Herman B. Dahle—May 1, 1889

John C. Johnson—June 23, 1893

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John Vilber—June 14, 1897

H. C. Gier—Jan. 6, 1908

German

A. Goebel—Jan. 28, 1916

J. Dysland—March [Lo?], 1925

Norwegian

[C?] Cora J. Sorenson—Present post mistress 4

There is a picture in the Post office of the post masters, the first few all wore chin whiskers, the next wore mustaches and the [Later?] ones were clean shaven. 3 LITTLE NORWAY 5

A forty acre pioneer farm near Mt. Horeb, until recently owned by the descendents of Austin Olson, a pioneer Norwegian settler, ia a place of unusual interest. This place is noted for its scenery and its historical background. It is within two miles of the place where Ebenezer Brigham 1st settler made his home 100 years ago. In early days people sought homesites where water and timber were available. There is an exceptionally fine spring on this place, wooded hills etc. At the present time the property belongs to the Isak [Hahle?] family. It has been named "Nissedhle" for the place in Norway where Mr. Dahle's people formerly lived.

The promoter of this place is developing it into a fitting memorial to those who paved the way for the present generation. Within its buildings are found many old and quaint reminders of pioneer days. A collection of very old relics have been brought from Norway and are on display at Nissedahle. It has become a Museum of intense interest to the

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descendents of the early pioneers of that section as well as to visitors from every part of the United States.